

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 2 and 6 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend Claim 4 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. to 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently amended) A direct thermal printer, comprising:

a direct thermal print head comprising an array of thermal energy sources directly radiantly coupled to a thermal print medium;

a thermal print medium drive mechanism holding the thermal print medium in noncontacting proximity to the direct thermal print head without a thermal energy modulator interposed between the thermal print medium and the direct thermal print head;
and

a controller coupled to the direct thermal print head and the thermal print medium drive mechanism, wherein the output power of the thermal energy sources are individually controllable by the controller, ~~The direct thermal printer of claim 1 is,~~

wherein the thermal energy sources are heater elements.

5. to 11. (Canceled)